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Stellar population models in the Near-Infrared

Meneses-Goytia, Sofia

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Acknowledgements

In these final pages, I would like to take the opportunity to thank the people who have left a mark in my life, whether in the academic or personal aspect. Also, I would like to leave the reader with the following lines by M. Schmich from her hypothetical commencement speech.

*"Be careful whose advice you buy,
but be patient with those who supply it.
Advice is a form of nostalgia.
Dispensing it is a way of fishing the past from the disposal,
wiping it off, painting over the ugly parts and
recycling it for more than it's worth..."*

Academic

First of all, I would like to thank Piet van der Kruit. When I was looking for a PhD position, I sent an email to him, which he so nicely replied to saying that for the time being, he had no position available. Nonetheless, he took my email seriously and forwarded it to the rest of the staff at Kapteyn Instituut. That gesture changed my life and I will be forever grateful.

That leads me to my supervisor, Reynier F. Peletier. On my birthday, I received an email completely written in Spanish, which took me by surprise, saying that there was a position available in his group. Circumstances were favourable and I was able to have my PhD interview a year before finishing my MSc. Within a few days, Reynier granted me the position and that was the beginning of a whole new adventure. Reynier, thank you for have given me this opportunity and challenging my resistance and sanity. This experience has allowed me to learn many things, from an academic to a personal point of view.

At some point during the PhD, I was welcomed into the group of Scott C. Trager leading later on, into an official supervision. Scott, I would like to thank you for having agreed to be an active part of my research and guided me through the process.

Also, thanks to Reynier, I was able to collaborate with the stellar populations group at the Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias, where I had the opportunity to work with Alexandre Vazdekis, Jesús Falcón-Barroso, Mina Koleva, and Esther Mármol-Queraltó.

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Personal

I am not a religious person but I do have faith. Whether its the Universe, life or God, it does not matter. I am grateful to have been given the chance to live, to work, to enjoy, to cry, to feel frustration, and to love. I had the opportunity to live in a lovely and warm city, Groningen; meeting good friends, and the love of my life. Even if it was *complicated*, life has been great.

When I moved to the Netherlands and started a new life in Grunn, I met wonderful people who made this chapter of my life an adventure worth remembering. Friendships that came and went, and others that stayed. All of them, granted me new experiences, joy, and wisdom. I just hoped I was able to give at least a little bit in return.

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힘든 시간 속에 여유를 가지도록 도와준 나의 친구, 최윤희 에게. 바쁜 일상 속에서 때론 커피 한잔에 수다를 즐기기도 하고 때론 비디오 게임으로 스트레스도 풀며 즐거운 추억을 만들어 주어 고맙다. 계속 소중한 인연을 이어나갔음 한다.
고맙다, 친구야! --소피아

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- Wim, U was een engel in het instituut. U had altijd woorden van hoop en wijsheid voor mij. Bedankt dat U er altijd voor mij was.

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